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MTE Annual Business Meeting and Board of Directors Election

Marci Hawpetoss
Menominee Nation News

The Menominee Tribal Enterprises Board of Directors, by resolution, has called the Annual Business Meeting of the members of the Menominee Indian Tribe as follows: Saturday, September 24, 2005, 10:00 a.m., at the Neopit Middle School Gymnasium, Neopit, WI.

See MTE pg. 10

Hiring preference announced for jobs at proposed Kenosha Entertainment Center

Submitted Article

KENOSHA, Wis. – The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin today announced a policy that would give preference to residents of Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee counties applying for employment at the Tribe's proposed \$808 million entertainment facility and casino in

See Kenosha pg. 10

Native American WWII Veteran's Honored



B. Alegria/Menominee Historic Preservation

Living WWII Veterans from Wisconsin Tribes were recently honored by the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. Menominee Veterans pictured above standing (l-r) John Reiter, Richard "Snuff" Dodge, Constance Dodge Goetz, Raymond Teller, Gwen Washinawatok, Wilmer Peters Sr., Earl Wescott Sr., Major William Fredenberg Sitting (l-r) John Lawe, Samuel Hawpetoss, Dennison James and Grandson Dennison James

Submitted Article

Menominee Historic Preservation Department

On August 11, 2005 an Honor Dinner for Native Americans World War II Veterans was held at Lake of the Torches Resort Casino in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. The once in a lifetime event was in conjunction with the 7th Annual National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Office Meeting. David "Nahwahquaw" Grignon who is the offi-

cial Menominee Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin was a co-host for the night. Thirteen Menominee Veterans from World War II chose to participate in the eloquent honor ceremony.

As a mark of distinction the World War II Veterans were seated on a beautiful two tier stage. The tables were draped in white linen and the meal was served to them by volunteers of conference participants, attending Historic Preservation offices and

other visiting departments. Twila Olson and Varlin Basina, former Summer J.T.P.A. workers in the Menominee Tribal Historic Preservation Office also helped served the honored guests. The traditional meal consisted of walleye, roast turkey, dressing, and gravy, two varieties of summer squash, wild rice, fresh fruit, vegetables and cake.

See VETERANS pg. 8

Schools Back in Session at MISD

Roberta Penass
Menominee Nation News

Menominee Indian School District 2005-2006 school year started on Thursday, September 1, 2005.

Principal, Mr. Chuck Raasch welcomed the students back to school and had everyone join together for an Honor Ceremony.

Menominee Language and Culture teacher Mr. John Teller sang an Honor song while the Menominee Veterans raised the flags. Mr. Teller continued by having a smudging ceremony. Menominee Veterans Wes Martin, Louie Kakwitch and MISD Counselor Tom Boelter did the smudging. During the smudging ceremony, Mr. Teller explained what the meaning for the smudging was. They smudged for a safe healthy school year. Mr. John Teller also offered a Menominee prayer. He asked everyone to pray for the families that went through Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Raasch continued the ceremony by inviting everyone to the gym. Mr. Raasch introduced the invited guests: Menominee



R. Penass/Menominee Nation News

Students, staff and community members enjoy the first day of school with a Honor Ceremony and raising of the flags.

Veterans, Menominee Tribal Chairman, Mr. Mike Chapman, Legislative member, Mrs. Karen Washinawatok, MISD Board Chairman, Mr. Wesley Martin and MISD Board Member, Mrs. Susan Waukau.

Menominee Tribal Chairman, Mr. Mike Chapman, welcomed every back to school. His statement was "Unity is back into the community".

Chairman of the MISD school board, Mr. Wes Martin mentioned to the students that this school is the only Indian school district in Wisconsin. He said, "Be proud, speak up and stand by your tradition."

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Mr. Raasch mentioned that he plans on having an honor ceremony every Friday, including a contest with each grade. He also stated that he is very proud of the students.

Dean of Students, Mrs. Leslie "Easter" Shawanokasic had the opportunity to announce and give out certificates to the students for last year's fourth quarter honor roll and second semester honor roll and high honors. Each grade level had a chance on winning a twenty five dollar gift certificate to Wal-Mart. The winners were: ninth grade Tia Fischer, tenth grade winner was Dylan Waupoose, Daniel Blackowl was the winner for eleventh grade and twelfth grade winner went to Elisa Peters. Congratulations to the honor students and the gift certificate winners.

Mr. Raasch thanked the Menominee Veterans, Parents, School Board Members, Legislative Members and the Police Department for coming to the "Back to school ceremony". He advised the students to "show everyone we have a good school and a good community, enjoy this year, study hard and good luck this 2005-2006 school year."

Veterans continued from front page

The program began with the Presentation of the Colors, Flag Song and Veterans Honor Song. The Lac du Flambeau drum presented the songs. Four American Indian Nations were represented, the Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Oneida and Lac du Flambeau band of Indians. The Veterans of the Menominee Nation Color Guard Unit, a number of Menominee Veterans as well as many Menominee family members traveled to Lac du Flambeau to honor our living World War II Veterans.

Opening remarks and prayer were given by Mr. Gerard Baker who also served as the Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Baker said, "I thank you (Creator) for the honor that you bestowed upon us as human beings. I thank you for the gentleman and ladies in front of us, our veterans, who fought for us. Grandfather, I ask you to give a special blessing to them and their families, grandfather we ask that you look upon the ones that are not here and the ones who have gone on, we ask for a special prayer for them and their families. Welcome honored guests, welcome to our World War II Veterans."

Kelly Jackson, the Lac du Flambeau T.H.P.O. gave some additional remarks, "Many visitors from around the country are here tonight and we have many veterans from various places in the state of Wisconsin." Kelly introduced the current president of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Bambi Kraus.

Bambi is a member of the Tlingit Nation from Seattle, Washington and Southeastern Alaska. She has worked for the National Association for 7 years. Ms. Kraus told the audience that many Tribes were represented here at the week long conference. The participants came from all reaches in the United States and are in the audience tonight. On behalf of the N.A.T.H.P.O. we are from, California, New Mexico, Arizona, South Dakota, the Carolinas and Wisconsin, the west coast, the east coast and the gulf coast, just to mention a few areas we are all here to pay tribute to the Living Native American World War II Veterans. The President spoke on behalf of the N.A.T.H.P.O.'s explaining to the audience a little about the important work each Historic Preservation Office does. She said, "We are the people who work in your communities to preserve your languages, oral histories, sacred sites, cultural tourism or who are helping to put together a road that is not going to impact historic property that is important to your people." Bambi continued, "last year we had our first ever Honor Dinner for Native American World War II Veterans in Washington D.C. We had seven veterans at that time and

we heard an amazing array of stories, we didn't know what our Native American Veterans went through 60 years ago. Last year the dinner coincided with the World War II Veterans Memorial. There is a real lack of tribal representation in that Memorial in terms of the Native American Contributions to help win the war. We, the Native American Tribal Historic Preservation Officers all agreed if nobody else is going to recognize our heroes then we have to do it. And this is why we held our 2nd Annual Honor Dinner for Living Native American World War II Veterans.

Bambi Kraus formally introduced the Master of ceremonies for the program, Mr. Gerard Baker, she said, "He heads up Mount Rushmore National Memorial Park. That is a first for American Indians."

Mr. Baker asked Kelly Jackson and Bambi Kraus to show the audience and honorees one of their humble gifts. They opened up a special edition World War II Pendleton Blanket. The blanket emphasizes the Navajo Language and recognizes the code that was so instrumental in winning World War II. The code that was never broken. There were additional gifts for the men and women veterans that were provided by Leah Alec from the Yakima Nation in the state of Washington. The Native American World War II Veterans who made their presence at the dinner were given a one night stay in a world class hotel by the N.A.T.H.P.O. that included mileage to travel to the ceremony.

To start the honoring the M.C. went to each veteran and read their personal military history one by one. The following Historic Preservation Officers wrapped the honored veteran in their magnificent Pendleton blanket. The officers were: David Grignon, Menominee, Sherry White, Stockbridge Munsee, and Kelly Jackson, Lac du Flambeau.

The Menominee World War II Veterans who attended were: Richard Robert "Snuff" Dodge, U.S.M.C.; Major William Fredenberg, U.S.A.F.; Constance Dodge Goetz, Cadet Nurse Corp.; Samuel Hawpetoss Sr., U.S. Navy; Dennison James, U.S. Army; John Lawe, U.S. Army; Wilmer Peters Sr., U.S.M.C.; John B. Reiter, U.S. Army; Raymond "Steve" Teller, U.S. Army; Gwendolyn E. Dodge Washinawatok, U.S.Navy; Earl Wescott Sr, U.S. Navy.

Two Menominee World War II Veterans that were scheduled to attend could not possibly make it, due to unforeseen events. They were Arthur Chapman, U.S. Navy and Robert Kitson, U.S.M.C. Louis Kakwitsch, the Menominee County/Tribal Service Veteran Officer, Post 497, accepted the blanket on behalf of his father-in-law, Arthur Chapman. Warren Wilber, Commander of the Veterans of the Menominee Nation accepted the honor on behalf of Robert Kitson. Mr. Wilber explained that Robert had a death in the family and just lost his sister Hazel. Hazel Kitson King was the last World War II gold star mother. Dennison James could not attend in person; however, his grandson Dennison was proud to accept his grandfather's recognition.

Each veteran was given the opportunity to speak to the audience and many did take the opportunity. Richard Snuff Dodge was the first Menominee of the night to be honored. He had this to say, "That word, Paris Island, any Marine that has been there knows that is a hell hole." He continued, "At home I have a letter that Harry Truman signed. I cherish that letter, not so much that he thanked me for my service, but that he was man enough to win that war. The 1st Marine Division had just secured Okinawa and was ready to attack mainland Japan, so when people criticize Truman, I always say, God bless you Harry. Thank god it was them and not me."

Veteran after Veteran were honored in the same fashion. Some were very emotional; some had an anecdote to speak of, while some were stunned and absolutely speechless. The memories were flowing and many were taken aback, some had not seen each other in many years. The honor could be felt and seen by everyone, it was a night that will always be remembered.

As Constance Dodge Goetz was honored she recalled the end of the war. Holding back her emotions she said, "Everyone was out in the streets shouting and celebrating, yeah, yeah, the war is over, the war is over."

A very special young man was present. He sat beside the veterans in his grandfather's place to accept his recognition. He spoke, "I have been asked to represent my grandpa, Dennison James Sr., as his name sake, Dennison James. My grandpa could not be here tonight due to his illness. My grandpa has shared many stories about his experiences in the war, unfortunately I can not tell them as humorously as he could. I am very proud to be here and accept this honor on behalf of my grandpa. Our family is very proud of him and sincerely appreciates this honor you have given him. We will share this day with him and will always remember this day. I would also like to share that I am following my grandfather's footsteps as I plan to join the Army. Thank you for this opportunity. Wae-wae-nen."

At the end of the evening a prayer song was sung by one of the veterans from a neighboring Tribe and Mr. David "Nahwahquaw" Grignon, the Menominee T.H.P.O. said a very special prayer in the Menominee language for the all the World War I.I. Veterans on their exclusive night. To close the tribute there was a huge receiving line that everyone was excited to join, so they could shake the hands in reverence of the honored veterans. You could hear heart felt thank you's and see the pride in the World War II Veterans. Laughter was heard throughout the banquet hall and smiles were wall to wall.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. On an end note, Constance Dodge Goetz gives an important reminder, "You have to remember we did not go to war in one single country. This was a World War. We had to protect our country on both sides of the homeland, the Pacific Coast and at the same time the Atlantic Coast."

Currently the Menominee Nation has the highest number of Living World War II Veterans out of all the Tribes in the State of Wisconsin.

The theme of this year's annual meeting was "Tribal Historic Preservation for Future Generations". Forty of the fifty five Tribal Historic Preservation Officers from various reservations from throughout the United States attended this year's meeting. The four day conference emphasized meetings, however there were cultural presentations from tribal members of Lac du Flambeau and field trips to various points of interest at Lac du Flambeau that included their fish hatchery, Wasagoming Indian Village, historic Government School Building and their cultural museum.

The conference itself consisted of topics geared toward tribal historic preservation issues that included training workshops, discussion groups, expert panelists presenting on various topics, and the annual board meeting of NATHPO.

As part of the 7th annual NATHPO meeting, workshop training was offered on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Some of the panel discussions that were held were current legislative activities that have been held regarding the National Park Service appropriation for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and the draft amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, cultural landscapes, tribal tourism and tribal museums.

The federal agencies that provided valuable information and support at the annual THPO meeting were from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Interior Department-National Park Service, Federal Communications Commission, Department of the Defense, Army Corp of Engineers, and the Department of the Army. A special forum was held with the representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and archaeologists regarding their involvement with transportation projects and tribes.

According to David Grignon, Tribal Historic Preservation for the Menominee Tribe, “the meeting was a great opportunity to network with other THPO’s from different reservations throughout the country and to take part in the workshops and meetings that provided valuable information regarding tribal historic preservation issues”. Grignon further stated “The highlight of the meeting was the honoring of the World War II veterans from various tribes from throughout the state, especially the Menominee veterans of the war who proudly received a special World War II “code talker” Pendleton blanket and testimonial dinner in their honor”.

MTE continued from front page

At this meeting, the officers will report to the Menominee community on the operation of the Enterprises for the past fiscal year (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005). The opportunity to vote in the Menominee Tribal Enterprises Board of Directors election will also take place during the Annual Business Meeting.

All Menominee tribal members are encouraged to participate in the Menominee Tribal Enterprises’ Board of Directors election. Four (4) Menominees will be elected to fill the expired three (3) year terms of Joe Besaw, Linda Caldwell, Jerrilyn Grignon, and Bernard Kaquatosh.

Eligible candidates are Joseph Besaw, Linda S. Caldwell, James E. Horton, Ben Kaquatosh, Evelyn Leroy-Church, Mary L. Menore, Adrian “Dusty” Miller, Edmund Waubanasum, William Waubanasum Jr, Ron Waukau, and Gregory J. Miller.

Each enrolled Menominee, eighteen (18) years of age or older, is eligible to vote in the Menominee Tribal Enterprises Board of Directors election. Eligible voters may vote in person at the Annual Business Meeting or vote by absentee ballot.

Absentee voting may be by mail or in person at the following designated locations: Absentee Ballot, September 2, 2005 to September 23, 2005/received by September 24, 2005 by 3:00 p.m.; MTE Main Office, Neopit, WI, September 2, 2005 to September 23, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; or at the Annual Business Meeting.

For more information, please contact Melinda Cook, Election Committee Chairperson, at (715) 756-2311.

Hiring policy goal to have at least 80 percent of workforce composed of Southeast Wisconsin residents

Kenosha continued from front page

Kenosha. The policy sets a goal to have Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee county residents comprise at least 80 percent of the facility’s workforce.

From the beginning, we have said that for this project to be good for Menominee, it must be good for Kenosha and Wisconsin,” said Menominee Tribal Chairman Michael Chapman. “By giving employment preferences first to residents of Kenosha County, then other Southeast Wisconsin counties, then to Wisconsin residents in general, we are working to benefit our host community, the entire region and the state. We want to be sure that our facility is a plus for Kenosha and Wisconsin, and this policy assuring local jobs for local people will certainly help us to accomplish that goal.”

Under the policy, Kenosha County residents will be given first preference for jobs at the new

entertainment center. Second preference will go to Racine County residents; third preference to Milwaukee County residents; and fourth preference to Wisconsin residents living outside Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee counties.

Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee counties have seen some of the highest unemployment levels in the state in recent months. The Menominee hiring policy will help to ensure good jobs in these communities by lowering the unemployment rate and boosting the economic stability of the region as a whole,” said Sam Gallo, Business Manager of UNITE HERE Local 122. “The Menominee have demonstrated a strong commitment to being a good and responsible employer in Kenosha, first with a project labor agreement that will assure construction jobs for Wisconsin residents, then with a historic organizing memorandum of understanding, and now with this policy to ensure jobs stay in the community.”

Minority hiring preferences also will be in effect at the Kenosha facility, Chapman said. Third-party businesses that lease space and operate at the facility will be required to adopt the local hiring policy, Chapman added.

To ensure that this policy is followed, the casino manager will track the residency of all employees. The Menominee Tribe will have access to review and audit those residency records.

Ensuring that residents from Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee counties have the first opportunity to seek employment at our proposed facility is important to our Tribe,” Chapman said. “We will do what it takes to ensure that this policy is followed.”

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin announced plans to build an \$808 million entertainment center and casino at Kenosha’s Dairyland Greyhound Park in January 2004, and Kenosha County voters overwhelmingly endorsed the project in a November referendum. The Tribe has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Kenosha and Kenosha County, and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is currently reviewing the plan.